

DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION FOR VAULTS, ETC., PUBLIC
BUILDINGS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT SUBMITTING AN ADDITIONAL ESTIMATE OF DEFICIENCY IN THE APPROPRIATION FOR VAULTS, SAFES, AND LOCKS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1900.

MARCH 28, 1900.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 28, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the favorable consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Supervising Architect, of the 27th instant, submitting an additional estimate of deficiency in the appropriation for vaults, safes, and locks for public buildings for the fiscal year 1900, \$2,500, which it is desired to have added to the amount of \$7,500 for that object included in the urgent deficiency bill now pending before the Senate, thereby increasing the sum from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

Respectfully,

L. J. GAGE,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
Washington, March 27, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of a report of this date, submitted by Mr. Gunvald Aus, engineer of steel and iron construction, connected with this office, relative to his examination as to the carrying power of the floor beams of the stamp vault of the Internal-Revenue Bureau in this building. It is apparent that these beams

should be reenforced to safely sustain the weight imposed upon them, and it is intended to have the work performed as soon as funds become available. Congress has now under consideration a deficiency appropriation on account of "Vaults, safes, and locks for public buildings" in the sum of \$7,500, the request for which was made prior to the receipt of information as to the condition of this stamp vault; and it is now recommended that Congress be requested to make an additional deficiency appropriation in the sum of \$2,500 to cover the estimated cost of this additional work, which, however, will be taken up as soon as the \$7,500 becomes available.

Respectfully,

J. K. TAYLOR,
Supervising Architect.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
Washington, D. C., March 27, 1900.

SIR: In pursuance of oral instructions I have examined the safety of the floor carrying the stamp vault of the Internal-Revenue Bureau in the Treasury Department, and have the honor to submit the following preliminary report:

The floor consists apparently of 9-inch iron I-beams. I can not, without considerable detailed investigation, ascertain the exact weight and consequent carrying capacity of these I-beams, but they are probably of medium weight, in which case each beam could sustain a load of some 12,000 pounds, uniformly distributed over the beam, with perfect safety.

I find, however, that each beam actually has to carry at present as least 30,000 pounds in stamps besides the weight of the floor, which is not less than 10,000 pounds on each beam.

I am informed that the floors are frequently loaded very much higher than at present, so that the beams probably carry at least four times as much load as they are supposed to be able to carry with safety.

There is no apparent indication of weakness, yet the load is so immense that the floors must be in imminent danger of collapse, and I urgently recommend that they be reenforced, and that in the meantime as much of the load as possible be removed from its present position near the middle of the beam and piled up in the wooden shelves along the walls of the vault.

As soon as I have been able to collect the necessary data I shall supplement this report by a detailed scheme of reenforcing the floor, but in the meantime will say that the work can be done for about \$2,500, and that it is not absolutely necessary to interfere with the work now going on in any of the offices.

Respectfully submitted.

GUNVALD AUS.

The SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
Treasury Department.

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